



P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037

## *the glebe society bulletin*

3/1979

### Community Health Crisis.

The suburbs of Glebe, Annandale, Ultimo, Pyrmont and Forest Lodge are grouped together for the Health Commission's Community Health services, into Inner Metropolitan health area 2. The Glebe Community Care Centre in Glebe Point Road is our service point. A wide range of health services is available here, organised by a small staff - however the services are threatened by proposed cuts in Federal funds and state-wide cuts in funding and staffing in the coming months.

The 'Save Community Health Campaign' has developed to protest in N.S.W., as any reduction in services erodes the concept of community health.

A local off-shoot of this campaign is growing and has settled on the name 'Community Health Action Group'.

The Glebe Community Care Centre offers - to name a few of its services - diabetic clinic, mothers' groups, free community resources booklet and other pamphlets, dietary and nutritional care, and drug and alcohol counselling. The Centre is a free service and much of its work is not available elsewhere in this area. Hospitalisation for the range of care is an expensive and unwarranted alternative in many cases, and it suffers from the disadvantage of distance and alienation from home.

The Federal Government plans to cut funds from 75% to 50% and to alter triennial funding to annual, impeding any chances of Community Health Centres planning their health services beyond twelve months.

The State Government has reduced its funding, and lopped off 400 jobs in Community Health. These jobs are being phased out and staff is offered alternative positions elsewhere in N.S.W.

Community Health Centres' morale is low and remaining staff will be overtaxed with the workload. Cuts in psychiatric services, recently publicised, will create an increased load on Community Health Centres - if there are any left to cope. Citizens of N.S.W. are the people who suffer.

The 'Community Health Action Group' has had two meetings to date. The group aims to protest to Federal and State Governments, publicise the issue in the community and keep the ball rolling.

You are invited to a public meeting at St. John's Church Hall, St. John's Road, Glebe, on Tuesday 27 March at 8pm, organised by the Community Health Action Group.

Alison McKeown, Convenor.  
Tel : 660-3917.

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### The Balmain Coal Loader :

In January the Glebe Society made a submission to the State Pollution Control Commission on the proposed upgrading of the coal loader.

The submission called on the government to close the coal loader instead of upgrading it after its expected life of 3 to 7 years. The submission argued as follows. To locate a coal loader in an inner city suburb is extremely unsuitable. The present and planned coal export facilities (at Newcastle and Port Kembla) are adequate to cope with the state's needs without the Balmain coal loader. The Western coalfields at Lithgow and the Burragorang Valley want to continue using Balmain because it is much cheaper in terms of rail costs. In effect the residents of Balmain, Birchgrove, Rozelle, Annandale and Glebe are being made to suffer all the inconveniences of the coal loader in order to subsidise the profits of a small number of collieries which produce less than 15% of the total coal produced in the state : coal which is inferior in quality and expensive to transport because, unlike the better-grade coal, it is far distant from the coast.

The present coal loader causes more pollution in local suburbs than any other single installation. Dust levels exceed the World Health Organisation limits by up to five fold. Noise, especially shock waves, from coal trucks is also high. The present coal loader exceeds three out of the five license conditions for pollution controls and the enlarged coal loader, it is stated, will be no better than the one at present.

A further major shock of the Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed upgrading was the absence of any mention of Glebe, despite the fact that Glebe Point is only 600 metres from the coal loader - much nearer in fact than most of Balmain. As a result, the proposed noise abatement installations were designed only to shield Balmain residents and not those of Glebe. This is just one example of the cheap and shoddy planning that had gone into the upgrading proposal.

In February, the Coal Loader Opposition Group (CLOG) with the active support of the Glebe Society obtained over 5,000 signatures for a petition against the coal loader and presented the petition to the Premier, Neville Wran, on 20 February at the opening of Parliament. This was preceded by a demonstration outside Parliament House at which over 80 protesters waved black umbrellas to symbolise the insidious invasion of black dust onto our streets.

Further protest action is now being considered. To organise this, CLOG needs more money. Send any donations you can to CLOG c/o Scott Wheelhouse, 27 Duke St., Balmain.

Tony Larkum.

#### Blackwattle Bay Park -

Credit where credit is due :

We've devoted a lot of space in the past two issues to the acquisition of the Blackwattle Bay Park - but we want to take this opportunity to give credit where it is due. We would especially like to thank the Glebe North Branch of the Labor Party for their assistance. Without their support and without the support of the trade union movement the park initiative would probably never have succeeded.

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#### Foundry - Chimney Stack :

Paul Landa, the minister for planning and environment, has confirmed in a letter that the proposed 120 ft high chimney is to go ahead (see Bulletin no 2 1979). This 'solution' to the foundry pollution is no solution at all.

The letters opposing this ugly blot on the landscape have been forwarded to Mr Coffey, the Director of the SPCC, with copies to Mr Landa. We urge people to write to the Council as well, opposing the chimney. The Council should get together with the SPCC to work out an acceptable solution.

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#### Garden Club Ferry Trip.

The Garden Club of Australia is arranging a Harbour ferry cruise on Thursday 21 June, leaving No. 2 Jetty, Circular Quay, at 10 am and arriving back at 2pm. The cost is \$3 and a picnic lunch should be brought.

Following last year's successful trip, when the ferry was fully booked, this year a larger vessel is being hired. An enjoyable outing is assured and an opportunity to meet people from various parts of metropolitan Sydney and inner country areas.

Tickets are already selling rapidly and anyone interested should decide quickly and get in touch with Theo Ahlston on 660-1083.

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#### Free Public Lecture : Thursday 22 March.

Lord Crathorne, a Trustee of the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum in Middlesborough, England, will deliver a lecture on this date as part of an Australian lecture tour. The address will be illustrated with slides and is intended to trace the early life of James Cook and to place him in the context of 18th century England and in relation to other prominent Englishmen such as Sir Joseph Banks. An extensive display of original documentary and pictorial material relating to Banks and Cook is in the State Library of NSW. The lecture will be held at 6.30pm in the Mitchell and William Dixon Galleries of the State Library, Macquarie Street and Shakespeare Place. Further information is available from the State Librarian, Mr R.F. Doust, telephone 221-1388.

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#### Gardens in Glebe.

There is a delightful garden flourishing on a first-floor enclosed verandah that leads into a flat.

The resident gardeners began its construction two years ago, at minimum cost. Containers were collected (ice-cream containers, tins, jars, plastic pots, an upturned pipe, hanging baskets and a wooden fruit crate). Cuttings were gathered from friends' gardens or were picked up from footpaths after storms, some were rescued from rubbish piles and others were gathered up during country trips. The pots were filled with a mixture of soil and free horse-manure from local stables.

The garden's form developed and it has now taken <sup>over</sup> the verandah. Everything grows rapidly due to an easterly aspect and the 'glass-house' effect of the verandah glass that maintains humidity.

Plants are growing in their variety of containers and are placed at several levels - it's an attractive sight, with the family washing often hanging gaily among the leaves !

In hanging pots on the walls; spider plants (Chlorophytum), ivys (fastened along the walls), Tradescantias (also called 'wandering sailors'), maidenhair ferns, and an unknown weed with a pretty leaf.

Placed on tea chests near windows are Hypoestes sanguinolenta (unusual dark green leaves with pink spots), various ferns, Vinca rosea ('little pinkie'), Hoya, native violet, native cow-orchid, ground begonias, dwarf rubber plant, fuchsia, various colours of geraniums, begonias, forget-me-not, silver dollar, lilacs and impatiens.

The following plants grow at floor level : Beloperone guttata (shrimp plant), orchids (cymbidium and epidendrum), lilacs, hydrangeas, large fishbone ferns, large begonias, small wild lemon. There are several varieties of cacti growing in areas with direct sunlight.

Parsley, spring onions, spinach and tomatoes are amongst the produce grown in pots for the kitchen. Moths and bugs find their way upto the garden so tomatoes had to be dusted for protection.

A wooden fruit crate is cantilevered out from a window frame with rope, making a large interior window box. It has held a miniature field of everlasting daisies, a crop of phlox (pygmy variety), petunias, and it now has stocks. Plants with a variety of flower colour and dwarf or medium height grow here and look good.

Another part of the verandah is suited for african violets that are now being cultivated.

A home-made mobile of sea-shells hangs amongst the plants, adding beauty to this artistic and productive garden. The owners spend several relaxing hours in the weekend tending and improving this imaginative place.

Alison McKeown.

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## HISTORY REPORT

Last year some of us wandered around the various denominational sections of Rookwood Cemetery. We looked at the sentiments expressed on tombstones of former denizens of Glebe and the value of this sort of evidence in genealogical research. The Glebe Society had its annual perambulation in March, and talks on Glebe were given to the Drummoyne Historical Society and the Marrickville Historical Society. In November a paper entitled "Glebe: The Making of a Victorian Suburb" will be delivered to the Royal Australian Historical Society.

There's been one meeting recently relating to the interviewing and recording of the experiences and impressions of senior residents of Glebe in respect of the period between the first and second World Wars. Popular concepts and different versions and interpretations of facts are very important and frequently fascinating; this material must be examined separately from the so-called official concepts gleaned from parliamentary papers and so forth, since the two will not necessarily coincide and are often at odds with each other. Some accounts, of course, must be taken with a grain of salt, like the Mitchell St citizen who survived on molasses (obtained from the C.S.R. at Pymont) during the depression. Because of his love for molasses, he maintained that he couldn't stand still in the one place for long, otherwise the ants would crawl up his leg. As I say, much of the evidence must be treated with caution. These Glebe residents aren't getting any younger, so it's important to get on with the job quickly.

The Society gave Forest Lodge High School photographs of two outstanding personalities connected with the school - William Bardsley, headmaster of Forest Lodge from 1883 to 1921, and Douglas Mawson, a pupil of the school. Two further issues of the Leichhardt Historical Journal, Volumes 7 and 8, covering a variety of themes in local history, are being typed at present and should be available soon. A series of four talks on local history and related themes will be given early next year, either at Forest Lodge School or in Record Reign Hall.

I've been doing a bit of research on institutional forms of relaxation and things like pastime clubs, temperance societies, gambling, choral societies, brass bands and so on. In 1900 the Sydney Sportsman was first published; it was essentially a working man's paper and reserved its most biting comments for organisations that it saw as repressive. Its pet hate was the N.S.W.R.A. who steadfastly refused to allow anyone engaged in manual labour to compete as a bona fide amateur oarsman. This is an excerpt of what the Sydney Sportsman had to say about it: -

"In the first place the amateur status which at the present time exists under the association is not only anomalous but absurd as are the sots who framed it. The rule which governs amateur sportsmen throughout Australia and elsewhere, and which it would be superfluous here to define, is regarded as an equitable and proper one; withal the stick-in-the-mud association could not rest without tampering with it. The incompetent council, which has been delegated solely to make rules to govern the rowing body, in its opposed-to-progress attitude exercises its authority in excluding manual labourers from the amateur ranks... The composition of the council includes many who do not care a fig for the association or the sport. However apart from this the Council as a body is opposed to the manual labourer. Why this is so is not known. Perhaps it is that the circle in which its members move precludes it from doing otherwise. It is known that they are a sottish set, ever impracticable, not less unprincipled and now portentous.

The sleepy association itself must never think that one who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow is, to say the least possible, as equally reputable as one who floats on the surplus stock of a financially fledged progenitor, whose lucre happily extends further than his knowledge, which in its turn, in some instances, is thoroughly hemmed in with the study of that which usually adorns the head of a colonial butcher's bill.

.... the amateur ranks must be opened to the manual labourer. Let it not be forgotten that the dawn of the twentieth century has broken."

The most successful participants attracted wide coverage in the press and the phenomenon of the national sporting hero prompted Henry Lawson to write :-

"In a land where sport is sacred  
Where the laborer is God  
You must pander to the people  
Make a hero of a clod."

In Glebe there was a number of local sporting heroes. One of them was big Peter Moir, a footballer, and this is what the Sydney Sportsman had to say about him :-

"All hail to Peter - Peter Moir  
You all have seen his dial before;  
You all have seen his bald pate shine,  
As he down he lumbers for the line.  
He is a great big Kangaroo  
They called him "Grumpy", that is true,  
At 'Ome, "not picked", he made a fuss -  
But Peter's a good sort of cuss;  
They told him straight, they told him flat  
Now look 'ere Pete, you've grown too fat  
In every match to get a game  
So us, me boy, you cannot blame,  
With Glebe he plays - he is a star,  
Also a strict tee-toe-tal-lar.  
Were he not fat, oh, he'd be fleeter -  
Just give a war cary for old Petah."

Another battler of the ball, was the Glebe League captain, Vic Harris, known to locals as "Hot Stuff".

"Hi, clar de track, here cometh Vic,  
Who'll run you down in half a tick  
The lusty bloke he knows no fear,  
And he will spill you on your ear  
You hear his voice 'midst language blue,  
Shouting to his men what to do -  
'Come up, three quarter, Pack in scrum'  
Oh Vic's the bloke to make things hum  
He's well known round Glebe at night  
And on the corners where boys skite  
They point and wink the other eye  
As this great 'ero strideth by."

Max Solling.

### Treasurer's notes :

#### 1. Welcome to new members :

Janet SIMPSON  
Mr G BLACK  
Brett RAWLINS  
Mr and Mrs DELBRIDGE  
Ms E. HURST  
John and Jennifer WHITE  
John THOMAS  
Brian and Jane McGUIRK  
Mrs Mavis FANCOURT  
Vincent BLEFARI

#### 2. Hand-delivered mail can once again be left at 295 Glebe Point Road. Letters must be pushed under the front door. Please do not post to this above address. The Society's postal address is P.O. Box 100, Glebe. 2037.

#### 3. Members who have indicated their interest in areas of the Society's activities (planning, social activities, local history etc) should have no fear. Their names are being collated and forwarded to the convenors, slowly. The convenors will get in touch.



For Your Diary :

Monday 26 March : Drinks at the Rowing Club.

Come for a social drink with members of the Committee, raise complaints and suggestions - 6 to 7.30 pm at the Rowing Club at the end of Ferry Road.

Tuesday 27 March : Community Health Action Group.

Public meeting at St. Johns Church Hall, St Johns Rd., at 8pm - to discuss the Community Health crisis ; see article in this issue.

Thursday 29 March : History Meeting.

All those interested in current plans for work on Glebe history are invited to an informal meeting at David Reeve's, 'The Drayne', 2/117 St Johns Rd., at 7.30 pm. Max Solling is planning another series of lectures for this year, and wants to get more work going on an oral history of Glebe between the wars. All ideas welcome.

Sunday 1 April : Coffee and Wine Morning.

Come along and join us for a drink of coffee or wine (50 cents) at Merle Larcombe's, 14 Toxteth Rd., at 10.30 to 12.30 am.

Wednesday 11 April : Monday Group Outing.

The Monday Group will be taking a train trip to Bowral. An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to join the trip. For more information, please ring Pat Moore, 660-4178.

Monday 16 April : Drinks at the Rowing Club.

A social drink with the Committee - 6 to 7.30 at the Rowing Club at the end of Ferry Road.

Monday 21 May : Drinks at the Rowing Club.

Details as for 16 April.

Thursday 21 June : Garden Club of Aust. Ferry Cruise.

This trip was quickly booked out last year. Those interested should ring quickly to Theo Ahlston on 660-1083 (see article this issue).

Sunday 28 October : House Inspection.

Alan Robertson is coordinating arrangements for this year's house inspection. Please ring him on 660-6149 if you would like to volunteer your house, or to help out on the day.

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SITUATIONS VACANT :

1. Two temporary Bulletin distributors are needed for 4 to 5 months, one for the Leichhardt/Cook Streets area, and one for Darghan/Bellevue. If you can help please ring Noeline Sandblom, 660-6593.
2. The Society badly needs a room or garage for storing the Society's archives, preferably one with outside access. Ring Eric Sandblom, 660-6593.
3. Are you interested in heading a small committee to oversee social activities for the Society ? We need a Social Activities Convenor - not an arduous job. Volunteers are most welcome to ring Jeanette Knox, 660-7781 or John Hoddinott, 692-0071.
4. The next house inspection will be held on Sunday 28 October. We are always very grateful to those people who are prepared to volunteer their houses. People to stand guard on the houses are organised by the Society. Please ring Alan Robertson on 660-6149 to discuss arrangements.

5. Volunteers are needed for three sub-committees to focus on recent issues : the proposal to spend \$4 million on the dog track in Wentworth Park; the disposal of former expressway reservations, particularly in Darghan and Broughton Streets and Bridge Road; the implications for Glebe of a new runway at Mascot. If you have an interest in any of these, please ring Alan Robertson, 660-6149.

What management did - 12 February 1979

1. The SPCC has written to the Society stating that the matters raised in Tony Larkum's submission on the Balmain Coal Loader would be taken into account in their review of the project.
2. A total of \$175 was taken on the Glebe Day, with costs of \$94. About 15 new members joined. The day highlighted the need for the Society to have some permanent signs and a two-person stall. Options on a stall are to be discussed.
3. Alan Robertson has volunteered to be coordinator of the House Inspection, to be held on Sunday 28 October 1979. People kind enough to offer their houses this year should ring Alan on 660-6149.
4. The Society is looking at the problems associated with a new runway at Mascot - particularly of flights over Glebe.
5. Eric Gidney has given the Society a copy of his paper 'How We Stopped the Bulldozers and Gained a People's Park', given at the ANZAAS conference in New Zealand.
6. Tony Strachan, who is acting as a representative of the Society on the Design Review Committee of the Glebe Project Office, has reported favourably on the landscape study for the pensioner housing scheme.
7. As planning convenor, Alan Robertson presented an extensive report on detailed proposals on planning and parklands. He is currently drawing up a draft of the Society's proposal for public access to the harbour foreshores of Glebe, to be submitted on Friday 16 March.

Under the Heritage Act 1977 there is now an opportunity for interim conservation orders to be declared over buildings. Buildings at risk should be quickly identified - if you know of appropriate buildings, please ring Alan Robertson on 660-6149.

Two areas where subcommittees need to be formed are on Wentworth Park and on a study of the disposal of areas formerly reserved for expressways (see Alan Robertson's article in Bulletin no 2, 1979).

Two matters under consideration are the Society's attitude to the preservation of Venetia, and on vehicular access to the park and to the flats. If Venetia is to be restored for community use it will require the continuation of Leichhardt Street to the waterfront to give access. This will have the effect of chopping the park in two, now that the new area of parkland has been added to the Federal parkland. A continuous belt of parkland may be a greater benefit than the restoration of Venetia. One proposal for vehicular access to the park involves the widening of Leichhardt Street and Stewart Street. Another method would be the extension of Sheehy Street. There are strong objections to both of these proposals.

8. Eric Sandblom and Alan Robertson attended a meeting of community groups at the Education Department with the Government architect. They were highly impressed with the plans for Glebe High School, both in terms of the architecture and landscaping, and of the policy of community use of school facilities. The Society also believes that the plans for the school make the extension of Fletchers container depot even more inappropriate, because of the increase in traffic and noise. People interested in the school are urged to write to the Education Dept and the Planning and Environment Commission to protest the planned expansion.

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